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New Mexico Labor Market Review

GARREY CARRUTHERS, GOVERNOR
NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Paul M. Garcia, Secretary
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Preliminary estimates for February indicate continued improvement in New Mexico's unemployment situation. The number of unemployed in the state declined by 1,800 during the month, while approximately 4,400 more persons were employed than in January. Unemployment in New Mexico usually remains relatively unchanged between January and February, so a decline, even a modest decrease such as this year, is encouraging. The statewide jobless rate fell from 8.9 to 8.6 percent over the month, which is over a percentage point below the rate one year ago. The U.S. unemployment situation also posted improvement in February. The nation's jobless rate fell from 6.3 to 6.2 percent, the result of a strong employment gain coupled with a small drop in the number of jobless.

Our monthly payroll survey of New Mexico employers indicated strength in both trade and services during February. Trade employment usually falls back in both January and February as retailers trim payrolls after the holiday season. However, the job loss shown this February was significantly less than expected. Hiring for a large food store grand opening in Rio Rancho caused at least some of this positive showing. Services posted an 1,100 increase during the month, with the gain distributed largely among the health, business, and amusements sectors. The beginning of the horse racing season at the Downs of Albuquerque boosted employment in amusements, while an aircraft maintenance firm, DynCorp, classified in business services, began hiring for its new contract at Holloman Air Force Base. DynCorp is expected to employ up to 600 workers by early summer. Approximately 2,400 jobs were added in the government sector during February; however, the majority were jobs furloughed in January due to semester breaks at state-supported higher educational institutions.

Unfortunately, the February estimates continued to record job losses in New Mexico's construction industry. Building employment can normally be expected to pick up somewhat in February, especially when weather conditions prove favorable. This year's employment figures tell a different story, however, as construction lost 500 jobs during the month, pushing the industry down to its lowest level since 1977.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	678,500	675,900	678,600	+2,600	- 100
Employment	620,100	615,700	611,400	+4,400	+8,700
Unemployment	58,400	60,200	67,200	-1,800	-8,800
Rate	8.6%	8.9%	9.9%		

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

NEW MEXICO	PRELIM FEB 1988	REVISED JAN 1988	REVISED FEB 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1988	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	528,200	525,800	519,100	2,400	9,100
MINING	15,400	15,500	14,400	-100	1,000
Metal Mining	2,100	2,100	2,000	0	100
Bituminous Coal, Quarrying etc	4,200	4,000	4,100	200	100
Oil & Gas Extraction	9,100	9,400	8,300	-300	800
CONSTRUCTION	27,800	28,300	30,000	-500	-2,200
MANUFACTURING	39,100	39,100	36,400	0	2,700
DURABLE GOODS	26,800	26,700	24,100	100	2,700
Lumber & Wood Products	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
Machinery(except electric)	2,600	2,600	2,200	0	400
Elec & Electronic Equip	5,300	5,200	4,700	100	600
Transportation Equipment	5,200	5,200	4,100	0	1,100
Other Durable Goods	11,200	11,200	10,600	0	600
NONDURABLE GOODS	12,300	12,400	12,300	-100	0
Food & Kindred Products	3,500	3,600	3,800	-100	-300
Textile & Apparel	2,600	2,600	2,400	0	200
Other Nondurable Goods	6,200	6,200	6,100	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	28,700	28,600	28,500	100	200
TRANSPORTATION	12,800	13,000	12,600	-200	200
Railroad Transportation	2,100	2,100	2,200	0	-100
Trucking & Warehousing	5,900	6,100	5,700	-200	200
Other Transportation	4,800	4,800	4,700	0	100
COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15,900	15,600	15,900	300	0
Communication	6,900	6,800	6,700	100	200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	9,000	8,800	9,200	200	-200
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	126,600	127,200	122,600	-600	4,000
WHOLESALE TRADE	22,700	22,700	22,200	0	500
Durable Goods	13,200	13,200	12,900	0	300
Nondurable Goods	9,500	9,500	9,300	0	200
RETAIL TRADE	103,900	104,500	100,400	-600	3,500
Bldg Material & Mobile Homes	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	12,200	12,800	11,400	-600	800
Food Stores	14,400	14,200	14,800	200	-400
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	13,000	13,000	12,700	0	300
Apparel & Accessories	5,400	5,800	5,400	-400	0
Furniture & Furnishing	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	-100
Eating & Drinking Places	38,800	38,600	36,300	200	2,500
Miscellaneous Retail	11,600	11,600	11,300	0	300
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	27,100	27,100	26,500	0	600
Banking	8,100	8,100	8,000	0	100
Insurance Carriers	3,800	3,800	3,800	0	0
Insur Agents, Brokers & Service	2,900	2,900	2,800	0	100
Real Estate	6,400	6,400	6,100	0	300
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	5,900	5,900	5,800	0	100
SERVICES	122,700	121,600	120,500	1,100	2,200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	10,700	10,800	10,800	-100	-100
Personal Services	5,900	5,900	6,000	0	-100
Business Services	29,400	29,100	29,300	300	100
Health Services	31,000	30,700	29,800	300	1,200
Legal Services	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Educational Services	5,500	5,300	5,300	200	200
Social Services	6,500	6,500	7,000	0	-500
Membership Organizations	6,100	6,100	6,000	0	100
Other Services	23,300	22,900	22,200	400	1,100
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	140,800	138,400	140,200	2,400	600
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	29,300	29,400	30,200	-100	-900
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	111,500	109,000	110,000	2,500	1,500
State Government 2/	49,900	48,000	50,500	1,900	-600
Local Government	61,600	61,000	59,500	600	2,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

2/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

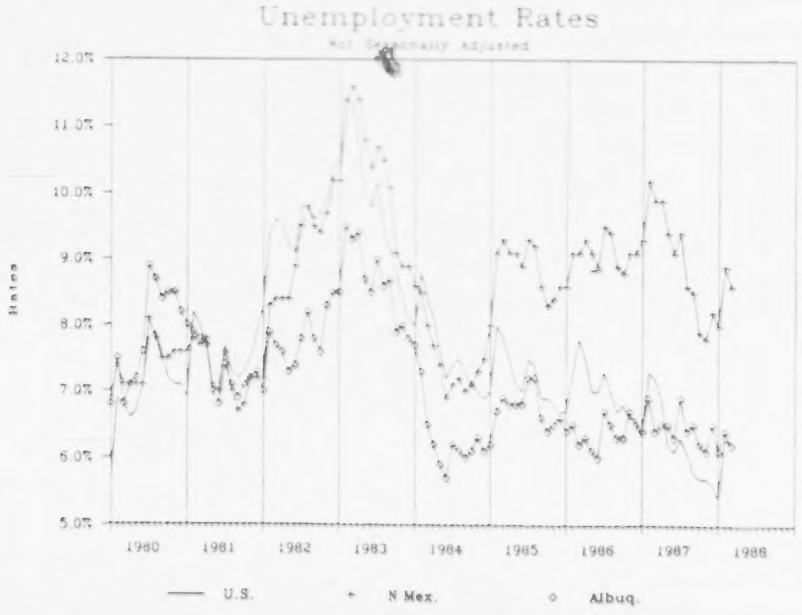
Keeping with what now seems to be a long established pattern, Albuquerque's unemployment rate changed very little over the month, going from 6.4 percent in January to 6.2 percent in February. Comparisons for the last two years show similar figures, with a rate of 6.4 in February of 1987 and 6.2 in February of 1986.

Reflecting the lack of change in the labor force data, February's nonagricultural data showed only slight movement. The small loss in trade was not as great as expected for this time of year, with most of it occurring in the retail sector rather than wholesale. Losses in general merchandise and apparel stores were partially offset by a small employment increase in restaurants. Construction continued to slip as all types of construction - building, heavy, and special trades - lost ground. Services increased by 500 jobs over the month, much of which can be attributed to an extended racing season at the Downs at Albuquerque. This is the second year the Downs has helped ease the city's midwinter employment slowdown.

Most of the city's over-the-year employment growth was centered in trade and services. Trade increased by 2,800 jobs which represented a jump of almost 5% over last year. Much of the gain was at restaurants and general merchandise and building materials stores. Builders Square and The Home Club, each of which opened within the last twelve months, accounted for a good portion of the increase in the building material subsector.

This newsletter presents two different types of employment statistics. One employment series (shown for Albuquerque in the table below) measures the number of persons employed by place of residence -- the so-called Household-based data. The second employment series (Albuquerque data on page 4 of this publication) measures the number of nonagricultural payroll jobs by place of work -- the Establishment-based data. Both types of employment statistics are developed from sample surveys; one from a survey of residences (households) and the other from a survey of employers (establishments). Over any period both trend and level differences will exist between the two series because of such things as variances in coverage (total employment vs. nonfarm payroll employment), how multiple job holders are counted (individual persons employed vs. number of jobs), and sample error in both data series.

	Prel.	Revised		Change From	
	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987
Civilian Labor Force	259,000	256,600	259,700	+2,400	-700
Employment	243,000	240,200	243,000	+2,800	0
Unemployment	16,000	16,400	16,700	-400	-700
Rate	6.2%	6.4%	6.4%		



ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

ALBUQUERQUE MSA (BERNALILLO COUNTY)	PRELIM FEB 1988	REVISED JAN 1988	REVISED FEB 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1988	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 1/	231,400	230,600	226,900	800	4,500
MINING	200	200	200	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	14,400	14,600	15,400	-200	-1,000
MANUFACTURING	20,300	20,200	19,700	100	600
Durable Goods	14,800	14,700	14,300	100	500
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,500	5,400	0	100
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	12,400	12,400	12,100	0	300
Transportation	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
Communication	3,900	3,900	3,700	0	200
Elec, Gas, & Sanitary Services	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	60,000	60,300	57,200	-300	2,800
WHOLESALE TRADE	14,100	14,100	13,900	0	200
Durable Goods	9,500	9,500	9,300	0	200
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	45,900	46,200	43,300	-300	2,600
General Merchandise Stores	5,100	5,200	4,500	-100	600
Food Stores	5,000	5,000	5,100	0	-100
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	4,700	4,700	4,600	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	18,300	18,200	16,700	100	1,600
Other Retail Trade	12,800	13,100	12,400	-300	400
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	14,600	14,700	14,300	-100	300
Banking	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Ins Carriers, Agents & Brokers	4,200	4,200	4,100	0	100
Other Fin, Ins & Real Estate	7,100	7,200	7,100	-100	0
SERVICES	64,100	63,600	62,900	500	1,200
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3,700	3,700	3,800	0	-100
Personal Services	2,900	2,900	3,100	0	-200
Business Services	20,800	20,800	20,700	0	100
Health Services	14,500	14,500	14,200	0	300
Social Services	2,800	2,700	2,900	100	-100
Membership Organizations	1,800	1,800	1,900	0	-100
Other Services	17,600	17,200	16,300	400	1,300
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	45,400	44,600	45,100	800	300
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	13,100	13,000	13,300	100	-200
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	32,300	31,600	31,800	700	500
State Government	11,700	11,200	12,300	500	-600
Local Government	20,600	20,400	19,500	200	1,100

1/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

ESTIMATED NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT (JOBS)
(Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

LAS CRUCES MSA (DONA ANA COUNTY) 1/	PRELIM FEB 1988	REVISED JAN 1988	REVISED FEB 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1988	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	40,600	40,600	40,400	0	200
MINING	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION	2,000	2,000	2,100	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	3,900	4,100	3,700	-200	200
Durable Goods	1,600	1,700	1,600	-100	0
Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,400	2,100	-100	200
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,300	1,350	1,450	-50	-150
Transportation	500	550	600	-50	-100
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	800	800	850	0	-50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	8,400	8,450	7,750	-50	650
WHOLESALE TRADE	900	900	800	0	100
RETAIL TRADE	7,500	7,550	6,950	-50	550
General Merchandise Stores	900	900	900	0	0
Food Stores	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,100	1,100	950	0	150
Eating & Drinking Places	2,900	2,900	2,600	0	300
Other Retail Trade	1,550	1,600	1,500	-50	50
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,600	1,650	1,550	-50	50
SERVICES	6,550	6,500	6,200	50	350
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	650	650	700	0	-50
Business Services	1,400	1,450	1,300	-50	100
Health Services	1,750	1,750	1,650	0	100
Social Services	250	250	250	0	0
Other Services	2,500	2,400	2,300	100	200
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	16,800	16,500	17,600	300	-800
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	4,200	4,200	4,500	0	-300
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	12,600	12,300	13,100	300	-500
State Government	7,100	6,800	7,900	300	-800
Local Government	5,500	5,500	5,200	0	300

SANTA FE MSA (SANTA FE & LOS ALAMOS COUNTIES) 1/	PRELIM FEB 1988	REVISED JAN 1988	REVISED FEB 1987	FEB CHANGE FROM JAN 1988	FEB CHANGE FROM FEB 1987
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT 2/	54,000	53,700	52,050	300	1,950
MINING	50	50	100	0	-50
CONSTRUCTION	2,200	2,200	2,300	0	-100
MANUFACTURING	1,700	1,700	1,550	0	150
Durable Goods	1,100	1,100	950	0	150
Nondurable Goods	600	600	600	0	0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	1,200	1,200	1,100	0	100
Transportation	450	450	400	0	50
Comm, Elec, Gas & Sanitary Svs	750	750	700	0	50
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	10,450	10,650	9,750	-200	700
WHOLESALE TRADE	800	800	800	0	0
RETAIL TRADE	9,650	9,850	8,950	-200	700
General Merchandise Stores	1,000	1,050	900	-50	100
Food Stores	1,150	1,200	1,300	-50	-150
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	800	800	850	0	-50
Eating & Drinking Places	4,200	4,200	3,600	0	600
Other Retail Trade	2,500	2,600	2,300	-100	200
FINANCE, INSURANCE, & REAL ESTATE	1,900	2,000	2,000	-100	-100
SERVICES	14,300	14,100	13,450	200	850
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	1,600	1,600	1,650	0	-50
Business Services	3,200	3,200	3,200	0	0
Health Services	3,300	3,300	3,100	0	200
Social Services	600	600	600	0	0
Other Services	5,600	5,400	4,900	200	700
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	22,200	21,800	21,800	400	400
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0
STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	20,700	20,300	20,300	400	400
State Government 3/	16,600	16,400	16,300	200	300
Local Government	4,100	3,900	4,000	200	100

1/ In accordance with the CES Manual, those published cells with less than 2,000 employees are rounded to nearest 50. Those published cells with more than 2,000 employees are rounded to 100.
2/ Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded.
3/ Includes employees of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS
Hours and Earnings of Production, Construction and Nonsupervisory Employees
(Prepared in coopèration with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
NEW MEXICO	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987
MINING	$504.00	$512.90	$498.96	42.0	42.6	40.5	12.00	12.04	12.32
CONSTRUCTION	$411.40	$405.89	$405.91	37.4	37.0	37.9	11.00	10.97	10.71
MANUFACTURING	$356.94	$363.53	$337.51	40.7	40.8	39.2	8.77	8.91	8.61
Durable Goods	$375.83	$381.89	$348.96	41.3	41.6	39.7	9.10	9.18	8.79
Nondurable Goods	$315.93	$314.24	$309.64	39.1	38.7	37.9	8.08	8.12	8.17
COMMUNICATION & UTILITIES	$620.26	$633.00	$553.25	41.6	42.2	40.8	14.91	15.00	13.56
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	$208.46	$212.26	$218.47	31.3	31.4	31.8	6.66	6.76	6.87
Wholesale Trade	$348.69	$388.88	$383.76	38.7	39.4	39.0	9.01	9.87	9.84
Retail Trade	$180.29	$177.91	$186.05	29.8	29.9	30.4	6.05	5.95	6.12
BANKING	$225.43	$231.24	$241.53	37.2	37.6	40.4	6.06	6.15	5.98
ALBUQUERQUE MSA	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987	FEB 1988	JAN 1988	FEB 1987
MANUFACTURING	$377.88	$383.54	$362.58	40.2	40.5	39.8	9.40	9.47	9.11
Durable Goods	$400.32	$405.14	$374.53	40.6	40.8	40.1	9.86	9.93	9.34
Nondurable Goods	$312.02	$318.38	$325.92	39.1	39.6	38.8	7.98	8.04	8.40

NOTE: Estimates include all full-time and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period which included the 12th day of the month. Self-employed, family workers, household workers and members of the Armed Forces are excluded. The average earnings are "gross" reflecting not only changes in basic hourly and incentive wage rates but also such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differentials. The work week information relates to the average hours for which pay was received, and is different from standard or scheduled hours due to absenteeism, labor turnover, part time work, overtime work etc.

AREA ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Albuquerque Area: Ethicon Inc. has announced plans to expand its plant at Rio Bravo and I-25 by an additional 70,000 square feet. The expansion will cost about $20 million and should be completed by the first quarter of 1989. Ethicon now has 575 employees and will increase to 850 when the construction is completed. A large scale trucking plaza is planned for the southwest corner of I-40 and Unser Boulevard. Construction of the $4 million facility is expected to begin later this year. America West Airlines has cut its Albuquerque staff by nine employees. The airline plans to drop 500 people nationwide by December. The Marriott Corporation will build a $7 to $10 million hotel near the Albuquerque airport. The 150-room hotel will employ about 50 people when completed. Construction will begin this summer, and the hotel should open next year. The Albuquerque Visiting Nurse Service has closed after 34 years of operation. The service employed approximately 50 people. Health South Rehabilitation Center, a hospital which specializes in outpatient and inpatient rehabilitative care, opened in March. The 60-bed hospital was built at a cost of $7.5 million. Hasting's Books Music and Video will open a new store at a shopping center at the Corner of Wyoming and Montgomery NE. The new 12,000-square-foot store will employ about 25 part-time and full-time workers.

Alamogordo Area: Officials of Fluor Constructors, Inc., prime contractor for the Strategic Defense Initiative laser project at Orogrande, recently said construction of the 2,400-square-foot communications building is 85 percent completed. Work on the 28,000-square-foot engineering support and office structure at the laser site is set to begin shortly. Fluor is scheduled to move its Las Cruces offices to temporary quarters in Orogrande in April and move into the new engineering building when it is completed by late-summer of this year. The 82nd Tactical Control Flight at Holloman, which is authorized for 81 military positions, will be deactivated this year. The cutback is part of a range of actions taken by the U.S. Air Force to meet congressionally imposed budget reductions.

Carlsbad / Artesia Area: The Department of Energy has announced the five finalists for the contract to transport nuclear waste to the

Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) site. The finalists are TAD Trucking of Hobbs, Dawn Enterprises of Farmington, Petro-Thermo of Hobbs, United Carrier Corp. of Carlsbad, and Colorado All State Transportation of Denver. The contract selection is expected to take place in the next few weeks. Lundberg Industries Ltd., a Carlsbad potash operation employing about 400 workers, filed a Chapter 11 Bankruptcy petition last June. Since then the federal Bankruptcy Court has appointed a trustee to oversee Lundberg's operations, and both the trustee and Ideal Basic Industries, Lundberg's primary creditor, have proposed reorganization plans for the potash operation. A Bankruptcy court hearing on the Lundberg case is scheduled to take place in the next few weeks.

Clovis / Portales Area: The Excel meat packing plant in Friona, TX reopened on March 14 after being closed for about two weeks. The plant employs about 1,200 persons, many of whom are New Mexico residents.

Deming / Lordsburg Area: A California-based apparel firm is opening a new factory in Deming which could initially employ up to 50 workers. The new plant, to be called The Coverall Factory, is expected to be located in the Deming Industrial Park and begin operations by the end of April. The New Mexico Department of Labor area office, based in Silver City, took over 700 job applications for the apparel firm. A Silver City-based construction firm, Tatsch Construction, Inc., was awarded the contract for the new Columbus Border Station.

Farmington Area: Amoco Production Co. plans to drill 32 coal degasification wells in La Plata county in southern Colorado. The company will spend $20 million to extract natural gas from the coal seams during the first part of this year and could drill as many as 100 wells by the end of the year.

Ft. Sumner Area: A new manufacturing concern in the Ft. Sumner area is ready to move from the funding/planning stage to the beginning of production, according to company officials. The firm, Pony Pack, will begin manufacturing an auxiliary power unit for diesel trucks within the next few weeks. According to company officials, employment at the new firm could reach double digit levels by the end of 1988.

Gallup Area: Chemical Lime Inc., a Texas firm which stores and distributes lime, will open a storage plant north of Gallup. Construction is expected to begin immediately, and the facility should open for business in approximately 90 days. The lime is used by power generating plants and in highway construction; the firm will employ about 24 workers. A housing project centered in Window Rock, Arizona will create jobs for approximately 160 Navajo construction workers. Plans call for 147 houses to be built across the reservation.

Grants Area: PICOR, a fishing lure manufacturing company, has moved to Grants. The 3-year-old company is expected to employ 15 people. Public Service Company of New Mexico has contracted with a Texas company, Uranium Resources Inc., to mine uranium near Church Rock beginning in 1990. The mine could employ as many as 125 workers when in operation.

Hobbs / Lovington Area: Oil well drilling activity in the Permian Basin climbed to 149 rigs at the end of February, while the national count was up to 983 rigs, according to Hughes Tool Co. reports. Figures for the comparable week in 1987 showed 120 rigs operating in the Basin and 801 rigs working across the nation. According to city officials, gross receipts tax revenue for Hobbs in December was up significantly, indicating that Christmas sales in the area were about 12 percent higher than in the previous year.

Las Cruces Area: The North American Institute of Aviation (NAIA) has broken ground on its western campus at Crawford International Airport. The institute will train pilots of Scandinavian Airlines at the Las Cruces facility, and negotiations are underway with several other airlines for pilot training. Start-up costs of the training facility are expected to near $2 million, and within two to three years NAIA could employ up to 100 persons at the site. Appropriations for the National Guard's Roland Missile system were not included in President Reagan's proposed 1988-89 budget; however, the Hughes Aircraft plant in Las Cruces which repairs the missile should not be affected, at least not in the short run, according to Hughes officials. The Hughes facility, which employs 50 persons with a $1.4 million payroll, can repair existing Roland missiles around the

world. Versions of the Roland system are currently used by French and West German forces. Current agricultural activity in the area is centered around lettuce and onion thinning and transplanting, planting of chile, and land preparation.

Raton Area: Kaiser Coal Corporation may be in the final stages of selling its two northern New Mexico coal mines to Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company, a Chevron subsidiary. The sale was approved by a federal bankruptcy court, contingent on the resolution of a dispute over a coal delivery contract with Arizona's Salt River Project. The mines employed about 350 people last year and produced 1.75 million tons of coal. Kaiser recently laid off 76 of its underground miners from the York Canyon mine.

Roswell Area: Creative Pultrusions, Inc. is expected to employ up to 30 workers in its new fiberglass panel manufacturing operation at the Roswell Industrial Air Center (RIAC). Construction on the firm's $450,000, 20,000-square-foot plant began in December, 1987 and is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Santa Rosa Area: MILSPEC Incorporated, a company which produces hats, is looking for 18 to 25 workers from the Santa Rosa area. The corporation was recently awarded a contract by the U.S. Department of Defense to manufacture 110,000 caps for the Marine Corps. The caps will be manufactured in the old Square Deal building in downtown Santa Rosa.

Silver City Area: Havens Construction is the prime contractor for a $500,000 renovation and expansion project at the Mormon church in Silver City. Kirtland Construction of Rye, CO was awarded a $1.6 million contract for highway work on NM 90 between Central and Hanover.

Socorro / T or C Area: A new Super 8 Motel, the 13th Super 8 operating in New Mexico, has opened in Truth or Consequences. Approximately 10 persons are employed at the 41-unit motel.

Taos: Angel Fire Corp. has laid off 10 middle management employees. The reorganization is part of a plan to shift from a four-season to a three-season resort. The ski area is expected to close April 3; Angel Fire usually employs approximately 500 people during the winter and drops to half that number in the off season.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Beginning with the release of January 1988 data, the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics has shifted the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to a new reference base year, 1982-84 = 100. Historical data for the CPI series on the new base are available from the U.S. Department of Labor by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 525 Griffin St., Room 221, Dallas, TX 75202, or by calling (214) 767-6970.

	Feb. 1988	Jan. 1988	Feb. 1987	Percent Change Jan.'88-Feb.'88	Percent Change Feb.'87-Feb.'88
CPI-U	116.0	115.7	111.6	+0.3%	+3.9%
CPI-W	114.7	114.5	110.5	+0.2%	+3.8%

Index Base Year 1982-84 = 100

CPI-U - All Urban Consumers
CPI-W - Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

NEW MEXICO LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES 1/

	PRELIMINARY FEBRUARY 1988				REVISED JANUARY 1988				REVISED FEBRUARY 1987			
	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate	Labor Force	Empl.	Unemp.	Rate
STATEWIDE	678,524	620,093	58,431	8.6%	675,966	615,721	60,245	8.9%	678,670	611,443	67,227	9.9%
ALBUQUERQUE MSA 2/	258,963	242,985	15,978	6.2%	256,585	240,162	16,423	6.4%	259,721	243,015	16,706	6.4%
LAS CRUCES MSA 3/	54,033	50,062	3,971	7.3%	54,385	50,234	4,151	7.6%	53,617	49,725	3,892	7.3%
SANTA FE MSA 4/	65,009	61,127	3,882	6.0%	64,873	60,922	3,951	6.1%	63,015	58,903	4,112	6.5%
Catron	1,150	914	236	20.5%	1,164	929	235	20.2%	1,240	981	259	20.9%
Chaves	22,943	21,257	1,686	7.3%	22,870	21,091	1,779	7.8%	22,749	20,184	2,565	11.3%
Cibola	9,154	7,874	1,280	14.0%	9,161	7,910	1,251	13.7%	9,390	7,795	1,595	17.0%
Colfax	7,367	6,588	779	10.6%	7,414	6,590	824	11.1%	6,847	5,780	1,067	15.6%
Curry	16,264	14,849	1,415	8.7%	16,532	14,933	1,599	9.7%	17,228	15,701	1,527	8.9%
De Baca	906	804	102	11.3%	924	804	120	13.0%	926	798	128	13.8%
Eddy	20,071	18,018	2,053	10.2%	19,643	17,530	2,113	10.8%	21,266	18,290	2,976	14.0%
Grant	10,457	9,521	936	9.0%	10,530	9,489	1,041	9.9%	10,360	9,149	1,211	11.7%
Guadalupe	1,625	1,287	338	20.8%	1,689	1,334	355	21.0%	1,704	1,319	385	22.6%
Harding	436	359	77	17.7%	444	370	74	16.7%	432	371	61	14.1%
Hidalgo	2,526	2,365	161	6.4%	2,514	2,331	183	7.3%	2,463	2,307	156	6.3%
Lea	22,482	20,511	1,971	8.8%	22,488	20,606	1,882	8.4%	23,400	20,243	3,157	13.5%
Lincoln	6,118	5,529	589	9.6%	6,034	5,449	585	9.7%	6,294	5,606	688	10.9%
Luna	5,793	4,874	919	15.9%	5,843	4,905	938	16.1%	5,846	4,856	990	16.9%
McKinley	17,992	15,556	2,436	13.5%	18,143	15,441	2,702	14.9%	17,713	15,190	2,523	14.2%
Mora	1,343	872	471	35.1%	1,404	915	489	34.8%	1,392	849	543	39.0%
Otero	18,626	16,885	1,741	9.3%	18,460	16,780	1,680	9.1%	18,052	16,485	1,567	8.7%
Quay	4,571	4,125	446	9.8%	4,532	4,089	443	9.8%	4,615	4,141	474	10.3%
Rio Arriba	14,549	11,540	3,009	20.7%	14,057	11,231	2,826	20.1%	14,705	11,249	3,456	23.5%
Roosevelt	7,480	6,981	499	6.7%	7,422	6,936	486	6.5%	7,721	7,280	441	5.7%
Sandoval	24,886	22,760	2,126	8.5%	24,887	22,694	2,193	8.8%	22,732	20,561	2,171	9.6%
San Juan	33,737	29,176	4,561	13.5%	34,170	29,260	4,910	14.4%	34,918	28,271	6,647	19.0%
San Miguel	9,900	8,520	1,380	13.9%	9,564	8,109	1,455	15.2%	10,032	8,481	1,551	15.5%
Sierra	2,547	2,380	167	6.6%	2,534	2,365	169	6.7%	2,653	2,363	290	10.9%
Socorro	6,058	5,387	671	11.1%	5,955	5,304	651	10.9%	5,958	5,322	636	10.7%
Taos	10,638	8,167	2,471	23.2%	10,696	8,171	2,525	23.6%	10,891	7,836	3,055	28.1%
Torrance	3,466	3,017	449	13.0%	3,480	3,006	474	13.6%	3,481	3,019	462	13.3%
Union	1,981	1,838	143	7.2%	1,998	1,839	159	8.0%	2,134	1,921	213	10.0%
Valencia	15,453	13,965	1,488	9.6%	15,571	13,992	1,579	10.1%	15,175	13,452	1,723	11.4%

1/ All estimates are made in strict accordance with methodology provided by the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

2/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Bernalillo County

3/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Dona Ana County

4/ Metropolitan Statistical Area - Santa Fe and Los Alamos Counties

New Mexico Department of Labor
Economic Research and Analysis (CC 6097)
P.O. Box 1928
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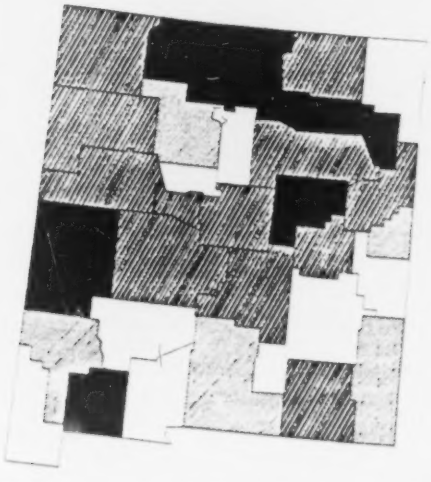
New Mexico
Unemployment Rates by Area
February 1988



Legend

- 6 to 7.5
- 7.5 to 9.5
- 9.5 to 14.5
- 14.5 to 36.1